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LETTER OF NINIAN EDWARDS TO
NATHANIEL POPE.

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RUSSELVILLE, KENTUCKY, August, 1813.

DEAR SIR:

Your two letters have just been received by me. The enclosed you will read seal and forward. It contains my opinion fully as I understand the case. I wish you would undertake the collection of my debts in Missouri Ty. If any lead is received I wish it paid over to Wm. Morrison to whom I am indebted. I am hard run for money. Altho I have sold land to the amount of about ten thousand dollars. I am still undecided where I shall finally settle. But I shall certainly return again to the Illinois Territory and that before very long, as soon indeed as I can settle my business here which has suffered much by my absence. I find my old friends are not all dead having been treated with the most marked attention and friendship. I am much pressed to settle again in this state and find that I can most certainly occupy as good if not better ground than I ever held here. My wife is anxious to return to your country she cannot reconcile it to herself to lose Mrs. Pope and Mrs. Stevenson as neighbors, or she is very deceitful.

You have no doubt heard before this that Ft. Meigs is again besieged. Harrison was at lower Sandusky—Genl. Clay commands at the fort. News has just reached here by Mr. Montgomery (who lives with Colo. Trotter) that Harrison has retired thirteen miles from Sandusky—that he had sent out spies to Fort Meigs—they returned stating that the place was so surrounded by Indians that they

could not get to the Ft. that everything appeared to be still &c, from which apprehensions are entertained that the Ft had been taken. In a short time we must hear the result & I will write you.

I have just returned from Nashville. The Creek Indians supposed to be 8,000 strong are certainly for war with use. They have killed all their cattle have some time past been engaged in curing their meat, corn &c have embodied in a plain and cut down trees for many miles round them. Gov Blount received a letter from Gov Homes stating that the Gov of Pensicola had demanded the surrender of Mobile and all West Florida. We shall soon find that the news that Tecumseh brought from that quarter is about to be realized notwithstanding the snarlings of our sapient ones. The union of Indians, negroes, disaffected French people, other choice spirits and a British force from the West-Indians will give our government employment enough on our southern frontier.

The patriotic General Toledo who has lately been at the head of the patriots at Santone is certainly in British pay.

Considerable dissatisfaction seems to prevail in consequence of Colo Johnson's regiment having returned to Kentucky. The Secy of War highly disapproved of its having marched at the time it did. It is unfortunate that it returned about the time that Ft Meigs was besieged some people who wish to find fault and who do not know all the orders that the Colo received suggest that the elections afforded some inducements to the movement and it certainly is operating to his injury.

The first day of the election at Lexington your brother was fourth the man and behind Russell 100 votes. His friends however had not dispaired of his eventual success. The town having made a great effort the first day. It is said he was gaining on Tuesday. Rowan is elected from Nelson. There were five candidates in Franklin. The first day the highest of them had 56 the lowest 51 votes.

Marshall is among them—Genl Ray of Mercer is left out in consequence it is said of his being partial to Hopkins in some way.

Thomas Speed has attacked Hopkins bitterly in the Palladium—Gov Shelby is authorized to raise a large detachment of mounted men, he will head not less than three or four thousand—he appears to be and is so considered by my friends and foes as a warm decided and open mouthed friend of mine. I have always thought him honest I wish him success from my soul. I think he will show that militia can be governed.

Yrs sincerely

N. EDWARDS.

I had no instructions about the arms at Ft Russel. I consider them in the care of Genl Hunter (?) and at his disposal. It might be well enough to put them in the hands of the militia for the present.

If proper persons wd be responsible for them there is public powder at Morrison's which if necessary ought to be distributed. I approve of the other measures you propose. Thank God I have not made a fuss for nothing My men all to be paid, the money was to start from Washington about the middle of last month. Prudence is a good thing enough, but I hate pay servile devotion to its dictates, at all events when men have turned out so patriotically, had conducted themselves with so much propriety and had given me so many marks of their confidence and friendship. I was determined that I never would desert their interest even with the certainty of falling a sacrifice to my efforts to procure them justice. When they see and feel that such is my disposition if it should ever be my lot again to command then I shall be the better rewarded by their zeal and attachment and obedience. Let Cap. B. Whiteside know that he is in no danger of being put out of service. I cannot account for the Third Lieutenants of the new Rangers being discharged, they held their appointments in

precisely the same manner that the other officers did. I wish to God I was back again at the head of such a force as I have and again can raise in the territory, if I could have this chance I would not remain one moment here however pressing my private business.

N. E.